

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) An information mediating apparatus for providing mediation services for the user, comprising:

a mediating condition storing unit in which mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation has been stored; and

a mediation service processing unit which reads out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit, obtains from another information storing unit storing subject matter information provided by a subject matter service provider specialist and on the basis of an acquiring instruction described in specific conditions for the specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data associated with the subject matter, fixes the contents by merging the specific conditions, generates mediation result information which satisfies said mediating condition list data including the specific conditions having the thus fixed contents, and presents said information to the user.

2. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit comprises:

a user interface processing unit which forms display information comprising a mediation menu and a mediation result and presents said display information to the user; and

a logic processing unit which reads out said mediating condition list data, notifies a service providing server group of said read-out data, and forms mediation result information by matching with service information.

3. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit designates and reads out specific mediating condition list data by analyzing an uncertain, rough, and abstract request from the user.

4. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when an uncertain, rough, and abstract request is received from the user, said mediation service processing unit presents a selection menu in which request contents are divided into items to the user and designates and reads out the specific mediating condition list data in correspondence to selected menu items.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where a referring instruction of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit extracts corresponding personal information and merges it with reference to a personal information storing unit.

6. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where a referring instruction of personal information exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit extracts corresponding personal information and merges it with reference to a personal information storing unit, and in the case where the corresponding personal information does not exist, said mediation service processing unit requests the user to input the personal information.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where an inquiring instruction to the user exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit requests the user to input personal information.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where an inquiring instruction to the user exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit merges corresponding personal information as default values by referring to a personal information storing unit and, thereafter, requests the user to input the personal information while presenting said default values.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case where a calculating instruction exist in the read-out mediating condition list data, said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression on the basis of other mediating conditions and merges a result of said calculation.

10. (original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said mediation service processing unit executes a predetermined calculating expression on the basis of conditions

merged by referring to a personal information storing unit or by inquiring of the user and merges a result of said calculation into said calculating conditions.

11. (previously presented) An apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein in a case where the mediating condition list data read out from said mediating condition storing unit has a layer structure, said mediation service processing unit obtains unfixed conditions by sequentially referring to the referring instruction, the user inquiring instruction, or the calculating instruction of the personal information storing unit from a predetermined layer, and merging them.

12. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mediation service processing unit forms new mediating condition list data on the basis of a mediation result presented to the user and decided and stores it into said mediating condition storing unit.

13. (currently amended) An information mediating method of providing mediation services for the user, comprising:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

for specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data, obtaining information from another unit storing subject matter information provided by a subject matter service provider specialist and on the basis of obtaining instruction described in said specific conditions associated with the subject matter, and merging the same to fix the contents thereof; and

generating mediation result information which satisfies said condition list data including said specified conditions having the thus fixed contents.

14. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which an information mediating program for providing mediation services for the user has been stored, wherein:

said information mediating program comprises:

storing mediating condition list data describing specific mediating conditions necessary for mediation into a mediating condition storing unit;

reading out the mediating condition list data designated in correspondence to a user request from said mediating condition storing unit;

for specific conditions having unfixed contents in the read-out mediating condition list data, obtaining information from another unit storing subject matter information provided by a subject matter service provider specialist on the basis of the obtaining instruction described in said specific conditions associated with the subject matter and margining the same to fix the contents thereof; and

generating mediation result information which satisfies said condition list data including said specified conditions having the thus fixed contents.

15. (currently amended) A method of providing intermediary services to a user, comprising:

storing in a computer a list of intermediary service information for each of the services the intermediary service information list comprising fixed service information and a variable information source storing subject matter information provided by a subject matter service provider specialist;

receiving a service request from a user and identifying a service on the list;

obtaining variable service information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list; and

merging the fixed service information and the variable service information and providing the intermediary service of the service request to the user responsive to the merged information.

16. (new) A method of providing an information services to a user using a computer, comprising:

storing information in a computer comprising a list of services and information about each service comprising non-variable information and an location identifier of a variable information source that includes variable information specific to each of the services and updated by a subject matter specialist of the services as the variable information changes;

receiving a service request from a user including constraint information, analyzing the request, identifying a service on the list and determining additional information conditions from the constraints;

obtaining variable information from the variable information source for the service of the request identified on the list using the location identifier and the information conditions;

performing information computation operations using the non-variable information, the variable information, the information conditions and the constraints producing computed information; and

combining the computed information, non-variable information and the variable information and providing the extrapolated information, non-variable information and the variable information to the user responsive to the request.